



SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

Safety Presentation

Slips, Trips and Falls

October 07, 2021

Recent NASA Incidents: Slips, Trips and Falls

Throughout the Agency, NASA had six slip, trip and fall events within a two week period at the end of June. Let's take a closer look at a few of them.



(July 2021 NASA Safety Center article).

In one event, an employee was walking and tripped over a rug, resulting in a fall. In another, an employee fell after tripping over the leg of an engine hoist while navigating through temporary HVAC equipment. In a third incident, a cricket on the stairs startled an employee who then twisted his ankle. In another, an employee slipped on a wet floor and fell to the ground just after putting out wet floor signs; and similarly, an employee was gathering tools for a project and stepped into a puddle of water, slipped, and fell onto his buttocks.

Think Safety... Looking at these incidents, what factors do you think may have come into play? In the first, what about the rug may have led to the trip? Perhaps the rug was loose and not secured to the floor or maybe it was flipped up or frayed at the ends. In the second incident, ask yourself what you should do when equipment or tools are placed in a temporary location as to not pose additional risks. It is important to keep such areas well-lit and place safety cones, caution tape or signs around the area.

As for the incident in the stairway, being startled by something is hard to avoid, but is there anything you can think to do to avoid injury? Always use the handrail, which could prevent a fall. Finally, water can be a slip hazard both indoors and outdoors; what should you do if you come a across a wet floor or puddle? Avoid any wet areas while walking by going around them not through them, and if indoors, report the spill or puddle, clean it up, or put up a wet floor sign.

Fast Facts

Most recent traumatic injury data show:



 27% of the 888,220 nonfatal work injuries resulting in days away from work in 2019 were related to slips, trips, and falls¹

It's always important to report a safety hazard when you see it. The best method to PREVENT accidents is to correct hazards before they result in injury, illness, or damage. Submit hazards in SSC's Close Call Reporting System (CCRS).

